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Oswald's widow pleads to have grave opened

FORT WORTH, Texas — (UPI) — The widow of accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald pleaded with a judge yesterday to allow the opening of Oswald's grave because she no longer is sure he is buried there.

Marina Oswald Porter urged the court to allow the exhumation requested by British author-attorney Michael Eddowes, who believes the man in the grave — the man accused of murdering President John F. Kennedy — might have been a Soviet spy, not Oswald.

"We will have very simple proof — when the casket is opened," she said, asking that the court give permission to dig up the grave at Rose Hill Burial Park in Fort Worth "as soon as possible."

After 20 minutes of testimony from Mrs. Porter, Judge James Wright recessed the hearing until 9 A.M. Monday. Mrs. Porter was whisked away through a back exit and did not talk with reporters.

At stake in the hearing is who has control over the remains under Texas law. Mrs. Oswald claims she, as his widow, has control, but Robert

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Oswald, the accused assassin's brother, claims he has the right to block exhumation as next of kin.

Kennedy was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested later that day, and was himself assassinated two days later by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby. Oswald was buried Nov. 25, 1963.

Mrs. Porter, who came to the United States from the Soviet city of Minsk, read a statement from the stand.

She said that "to give my consent (to exhumation) was a very hard decision and was not done for purposes of publicity or any financial gain. I carefully weighed all the factors."

"I met Lee Harvey Oswald, I married him and that was the same man buried there," she said. "I believe the person buried there was the same person I married."

But during her testimony, Mrs. Porter carefully discussed the possibility that a Soviet agent had assumed Oswald's identity prior to their meeting in 1959 in Minsk.

The legal battle over exhumation, heightened when Robert Oswald filed suit to stop it, has been "a hardship," she said, adding that her former brother-in-law's suit had upset her.

"My family's feelings are not being considered," she said.

She said there was "a commotion" at the funeral and it was suggested to her that the body had been stolen.